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Serial No. 09/896,439

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 7 is proposed to be amended herein. Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method for insulating or thermally protecting a rocket motor assembly, comprising:

providing a precursor material comprising at least one aromatic polyamide, the precursor material having a denier per fiber ranging from 1.5 denier per fiber to 3.0 denier per fiber; carbonizing the precursor material to form a reinforcement structure; impregnating the reinforcement structure with a resin matrix to form a rocket motor ablative material; and

using the rocket motor ablative material on a portion of a rocket motor assembly.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a precursor material comprising at least one aromatic polyamide comprises providing a precursor material comprising carded and yarn-spun staple aramid fibers.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a precursor material comprising at least one aromatic polyamide comprises providing a precursor material comprising yarn-spun aramid filaments.